
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 26, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HANSBROUGH, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 3210.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3210) granting a pension to Anna P. Johnson, have examined the same, and report:

A similar bill was introduced in the House of Representatives during the present session and a favorable report made thereon, which is adopted by your committee and made a part of this report.

HOUSE REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7128) granting a pension to Anna P. Johnson, widow of Paul Johnson, late private, Company I, Sixteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, at \$12 per month, having carefully examined and considered the same, respectfully report:

The War Department records show:

"Paul Johnson was drafted into service and received at draft rendezvous, Davenport, Iowa, November 5, 1864; forwarded to regiment December 5, 1864; assigned as private, Company I, Sixteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and delivered at headquarters Provisional Division of the Cumberland, Nashville, Tenn., December 9, 1864; admitted to No. 19, General Hospital, Nashville, Tenn., December 28, 1864, with acute rheumatism, and was transferred January 2, 1865; admitted to Sedgewick General Hospital, Louisville, Ky., January 2, 1865, with pneumonia, and was transferred February 27, 1865; admitted to Crittenden General Hospital, Louisville, Ky., February 27, 1865, with chronic rheumatism, and was sent to Brown Hospital March 14, 1865; entered Brown Hospital, Louisville, Ky., March 14, 1865, convalescent from fever.

"Medical records also show that a man described as Paul Johnson, Company —, Ninth Iowa Cavalry, or Infantry, was admitted to Clay General Hospital, Louisville, Ky., April 17, 1865, with insanity, and transferred May 18, 1865. He is reported deserted from Brown General Hospital, Louisville, Ky., July 6, 1865. The charge of desertion of July 6, 1865, against this man, is removed, and he is discharged to date July 6, 1865, to complete his military record, under the provisions of section 1 of the act of Congress approved March 2, 1889, by order of the Secretary of War."

Soldier never applied for back pay or pension and has never been heard of since July 6, 1865.

Widow was married to soldier May 26, 1845, and by him raised a family of five children, the youngest being born January 9, 1860.

The widow employed John J. Neshin to go to Louisville in the latter part of June, 1865, and endeavor to bring her husband home on furlough. He went and arrived there the next day after he wandered away from the hospital insane, and the ferry-

man informed him he had conveyed an insane man across the Ohio River to New Albany, Ind. He offered a reward of \$50 for his apprehension, published it in the newspapers, and spent a week in search of the soldier, but without result.

William Russell, who was drafted at the same time, swears he saw him about July, 1865, being led about at Louisville, Ky., by two men, who said he was crazy. He also testifies to the search made at Louisville and New Albany by John J. Neshin and himself for Paul Johnson.

Rev. Amund Olson testifies that Paul Johnson escaped from hospital about the last of June or first of July, 1865, and that he, with others, started in search of him July 4, 1865; that they learned that a conductor put a crazy soldier off his train at some point in Indiana, and that they sent telegrams to different points, but were never able to get any definite trace of him.

Widow filed claim for pension December 23, 1882, and filed proof of foregoing facts. Her claim was rejected April 6, 1892, on the ground that—

"The date and fact of soldier's death is not shown; and if dead, there is no evidence that his death was due to his military service, and claimant avers her inability to furnish any further evidence."

This man being drafted, and no claim of unsoundness being made, and it being clearly shown by the record that he was in hospital for "fever," "rheumatism," "pneumonia," and "insanity," from December 28, 1864, to July 6, 1865, the probability of his death from causes originating in service may reasonably be presumed, and the fact that he has not been heard from in nearly thirty-one years makes it almost absolutely certain that he died long ago, most probably within a short period from the time of wandering away from the hospital.

Your committee therefore urgently recommend that tardy justice be done this old woman, who has so patiently awaited the return of her husband, who was bereft of reason in service, as well as for that act of justice which common law and common sense should have brought her in presuming the death of him she was no more to see on earth, and the passage of the bill is therefore recommended without amendment.

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